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SPIDER-MAN 2099
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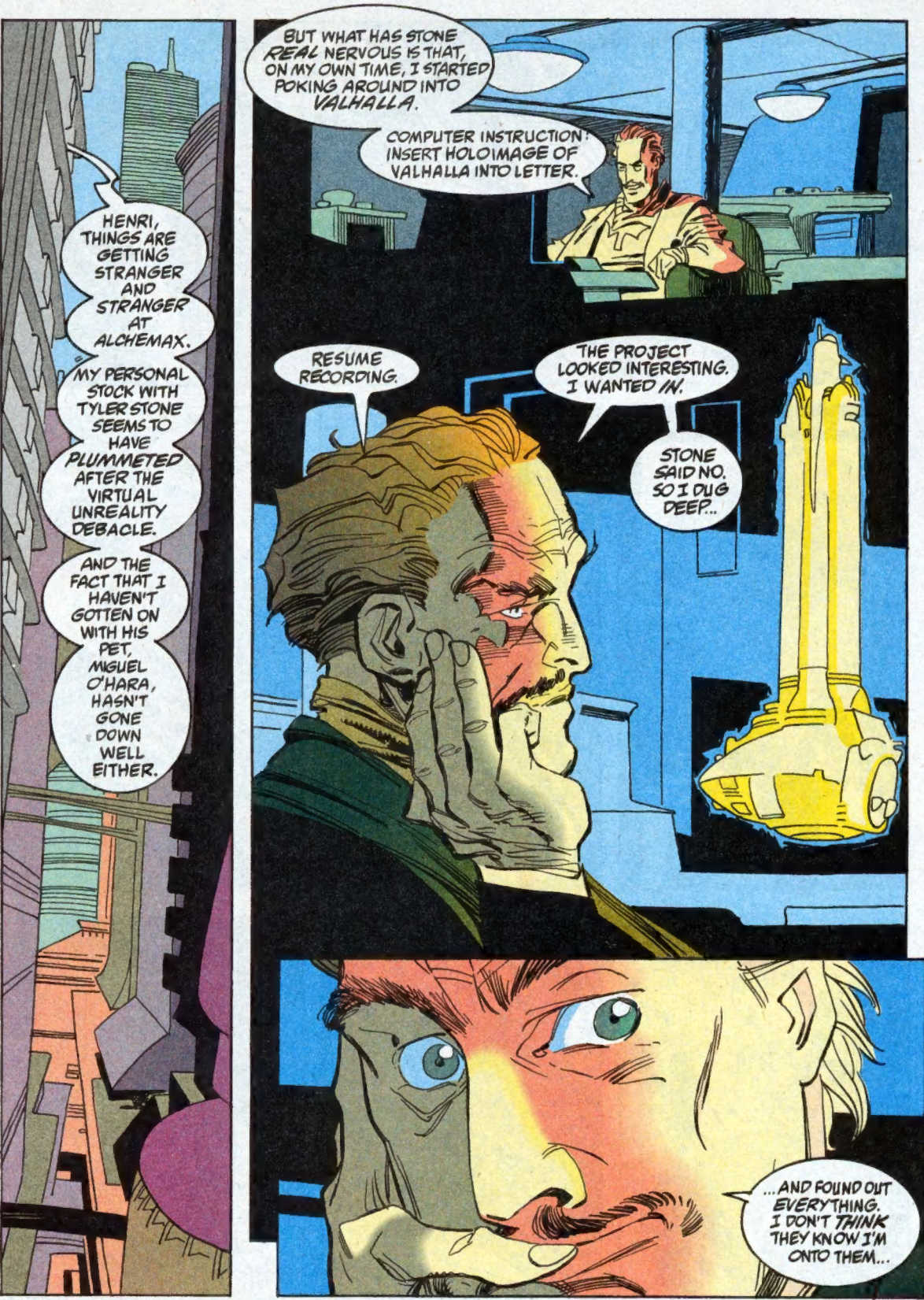
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
"WHOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER..."
UNKNOWN COMIX
LEONARDI WILLIAMSON


HENRI, THINGS ARE GETTING STRANGER AND STRANGER AT ALCHEMAX.
MY PERSONAL STOCK WITH TYLER STONE SEEMS TO HAVE PLUMMETED AFTER THE VIRTUAL UNREALITY DEBACLE.
AND THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ON WITH HIS PET, MIGUEL O'HARA, HASN'T GONE DOWN WELL EITHER.
BUT WHAT HAS STONE REAL NERVOUS IS THAT, ON MY OWN TIME, I STARTED POKING AROUND INTO VALHALLA.
COMPUTER INSTRUCTION! INSERT HOLOIMAGE OF VALHALLA INTO LETTER.
RESUME RECORDING.
THE PROJECT LOOKED INTERESTING. I WANTED IN.
STONE SAID NO. SO I DUG DEEP...
...AND FOUND OUT EVERYTHING. I DON'T THINK THEY KNOW I'M ONTO THEM...

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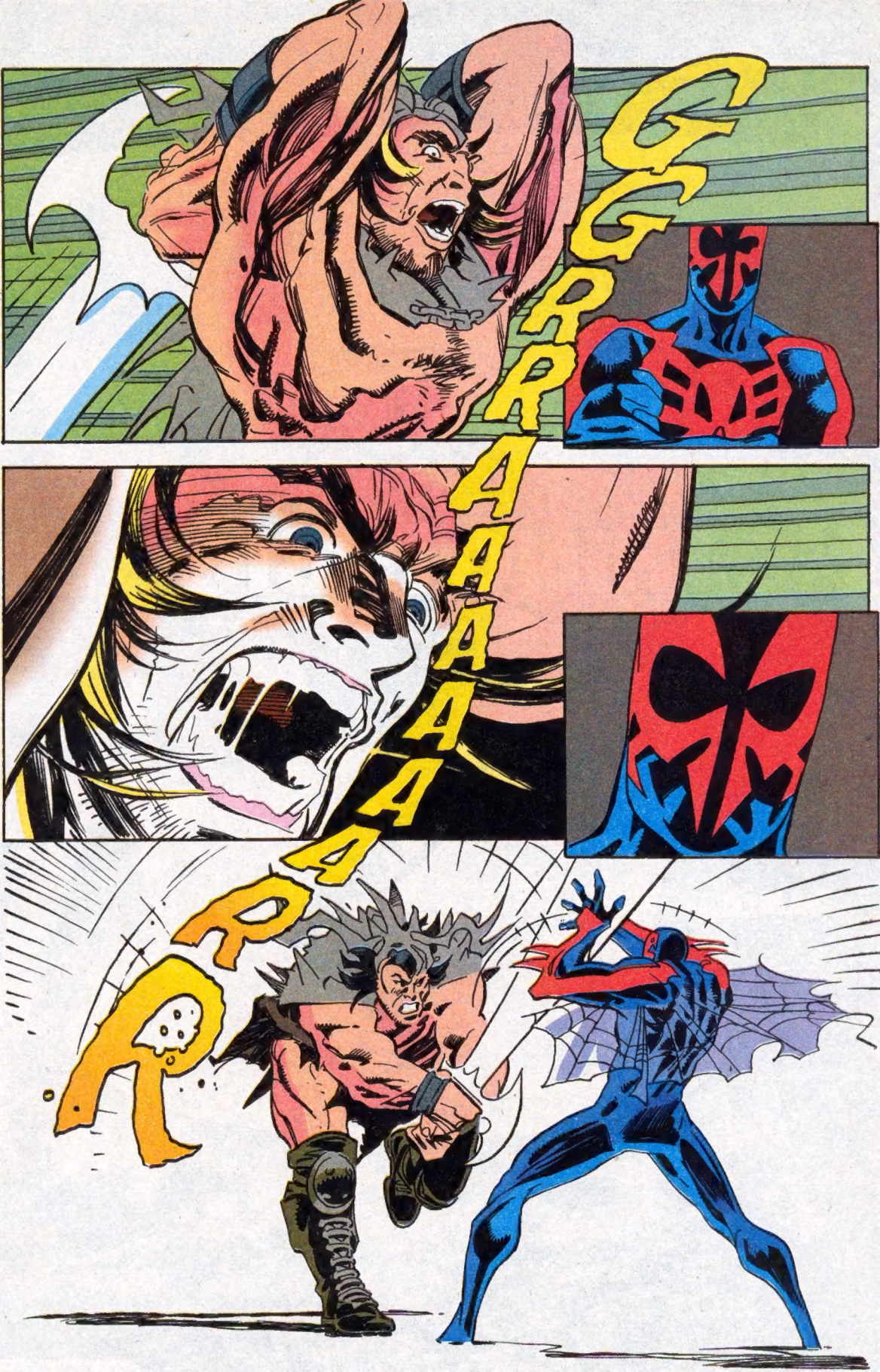
...AND I CAN'T WAIT AROUND TO FIND OUT.
I'M ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING *OUTRAGEOUS*, HENRI, THAT'LL PUT EVERYTHING WE EVER DID AS VIDEO-GOTHS TO SHAME. IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM ME, THINGS HAVE GONE *BAD*.
SIGNING OFF FOR NOW.
END E-MAIL. TRANSMIT.
JORDAN BOONE.
YOU, UH... JUST *MISSED* HIM.
NICE *TRY*, TRICKSTER.
UNH!

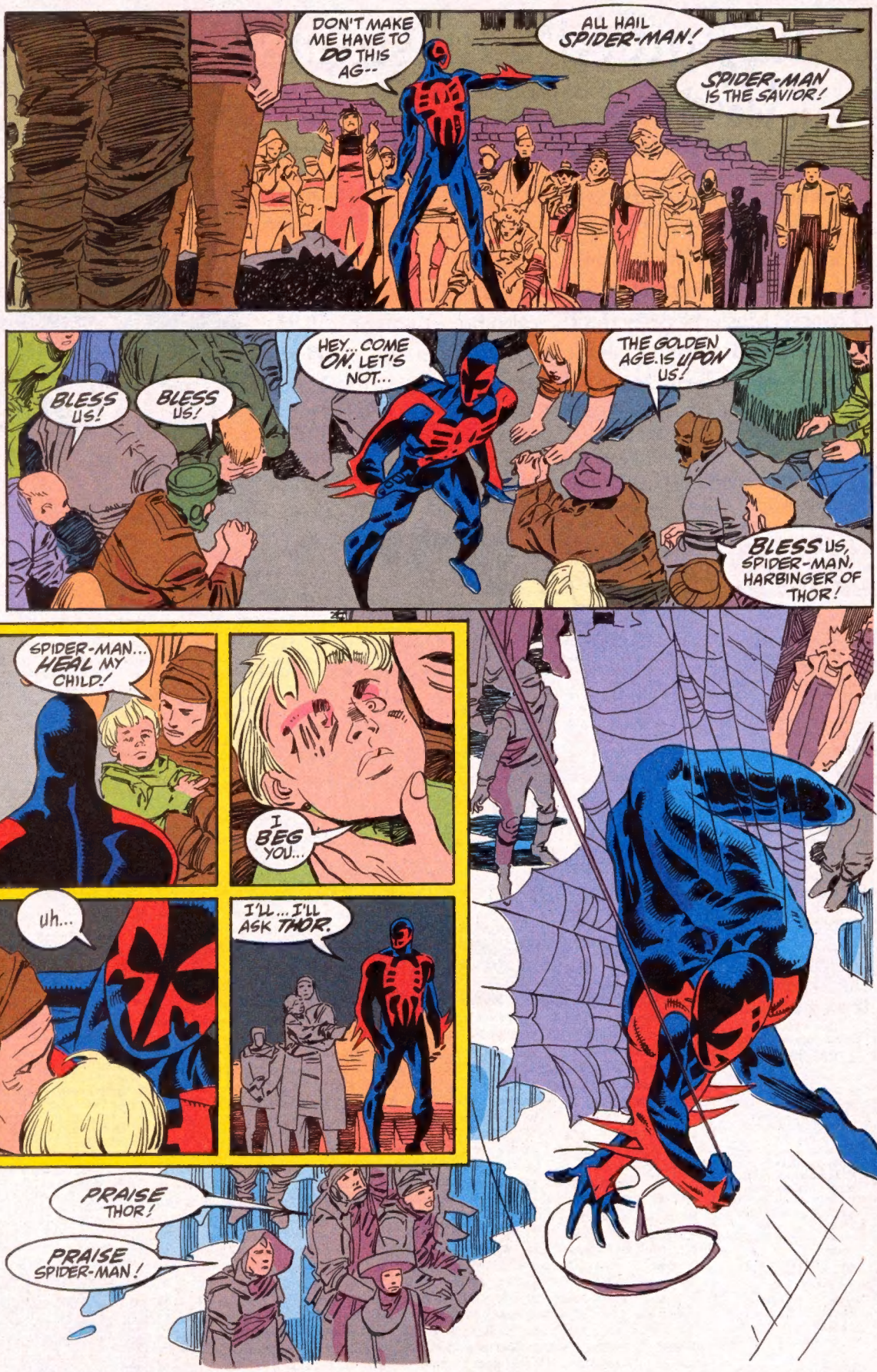
THE RISE OF THE HAMMER
BAP
PETER DAVID WRITER
TRICK LEONARDI PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
RICK PARKER LETTERS
STEVE BUCCELLATO COLOR
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
GET HIM! GET THE FALSE HARBINGER!
SHOW THE WEBBED FREAK THAT THE FENRIS RULE DOWN-TOWN!

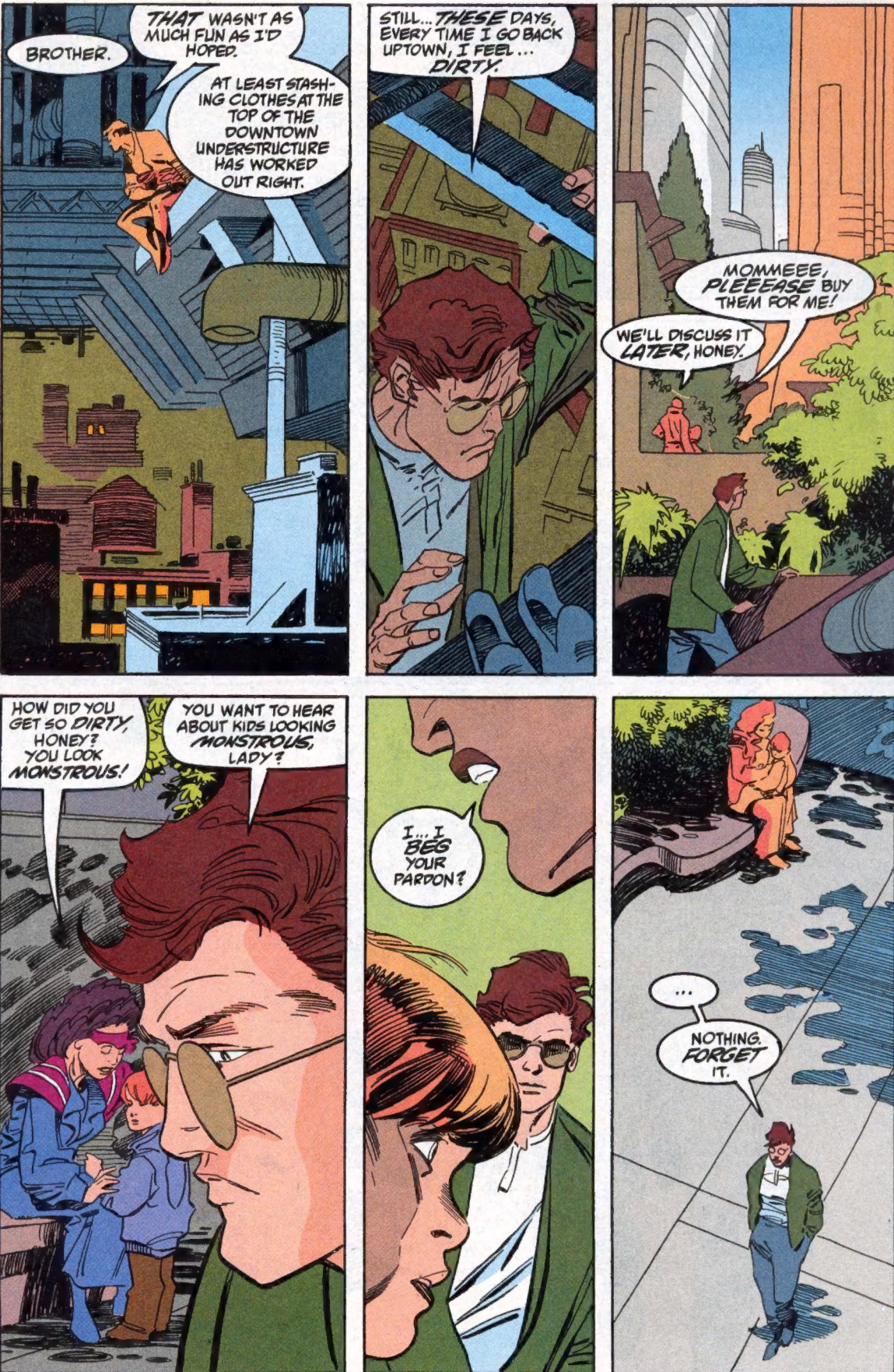
WE HAD THIS DISCUSSION.
EEEEAARHHH!
I HATE REPEATING MYSELF.
OOF!
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME...
...AND ENERGY...
...AND LIVES.

GET 'EM, SPIDER-MAN!
THEY'RE AFRAID OF YOU! THEY'RE...
AFRAID?! YOU WISH!
SPIDER-MAN! YOU HAVE TORMENTED MY PEOPLE! BUT NOW, YOU FACE THEIR LEADER! NOW, YOU FACE...
...BLOODSWORD!


GGRRAAAAAAARR

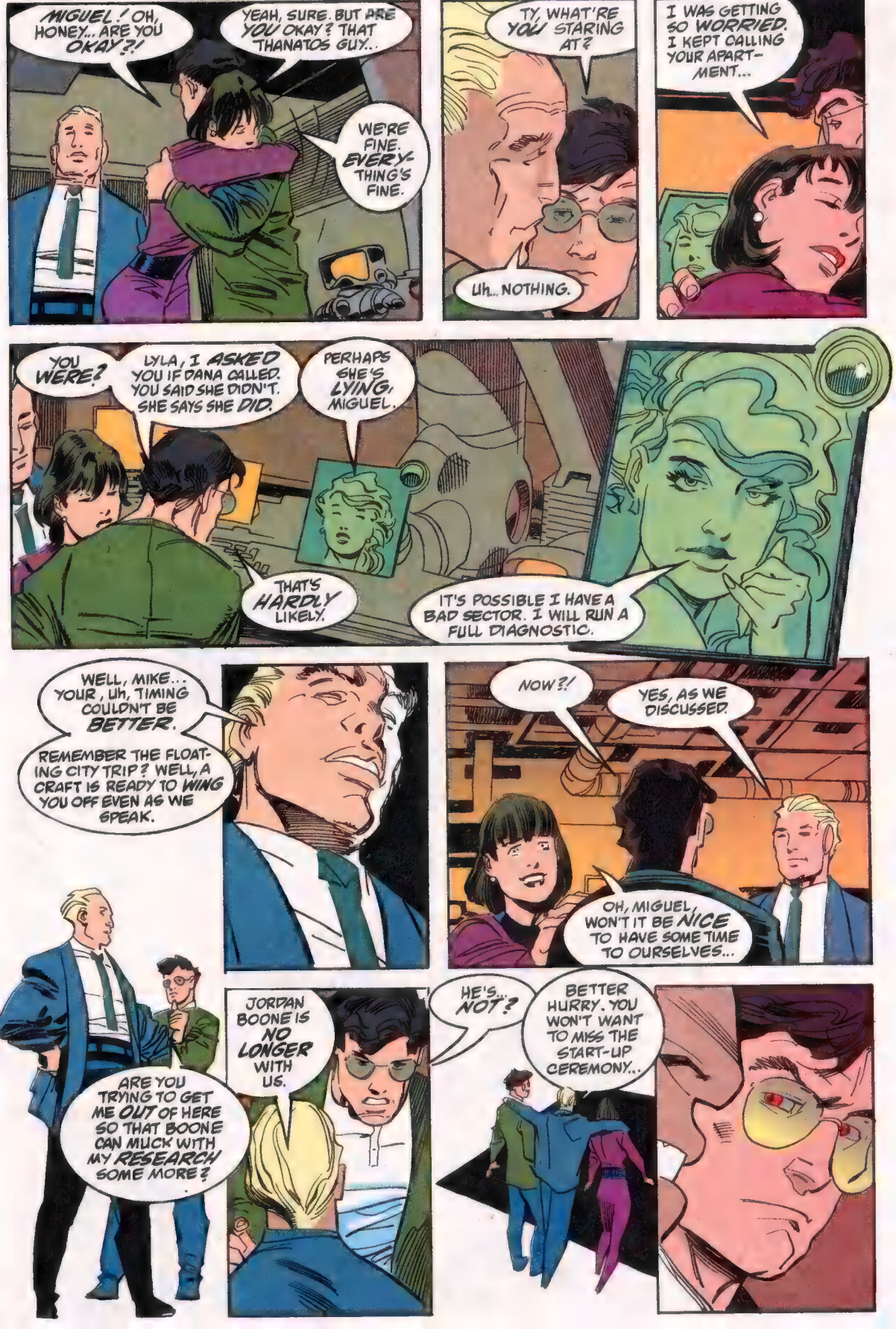
WH-- LET GO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SKREEEEEEE
IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF YOUR SWORD. IT'S HOW YOU USE IT.
APPARENTLY YOU GUYS DIDN'T GET THE MESSAGE I DELIVERED AT THE CHURCH.
THE FENRIS TERRORIZING ENDS TODAY! THE PEOPLE OF DOWNTOWN ARE ENTITLED TO PEACE!


DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO DO THIS AG--
ALL HAIL SPIDER-MAN!
SPIDER-MAN IS THE SAVIOR!
BLESS US!
BLESS US!
HEY... COME ON. LET'S NOT...
THE GOLDEN AGE IS UPON US!
BLESS US, SPIDER-MAN, HARBINGER OF THOR!
SPIDER-MAN... HEAL MY CHILD!
I BEG YOU...
uh...
I'LL... I'LL ASK THOR.
PRAISE THOR!
PRAISE SPIDER-MAN!

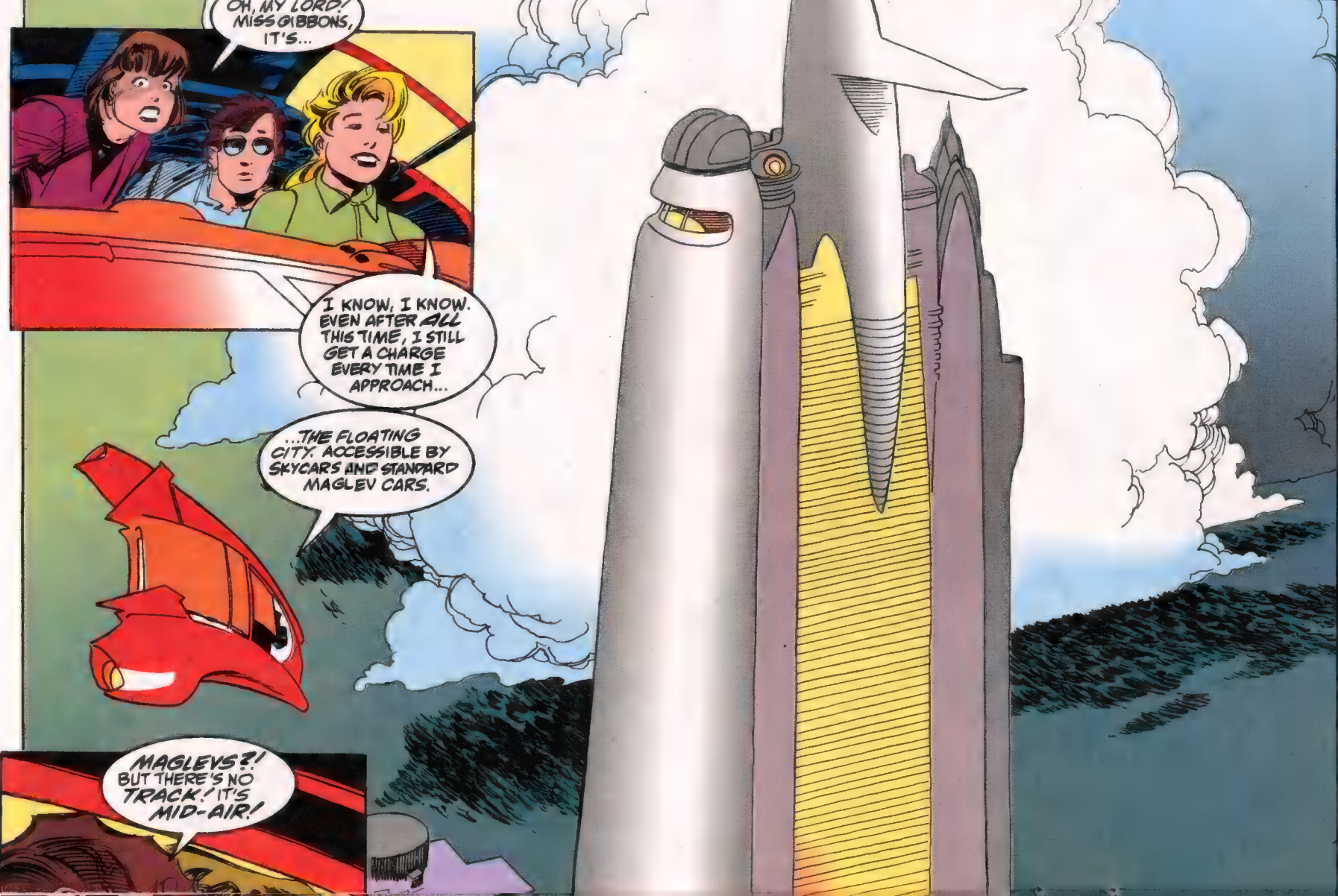

BROTHER.
THAT WASN'T AS MUCH FUN AS I'D HOPED.
AT LEAST STASHING CLOTHES AT THE TOP OF THE DOWNTOWN UNDERSTRUCTURE HAS WORKED OUT RIGHT.
STILL... THESE DAYS, EVERY TIME I GO BACK UPTOWN, I FEEL... DIRTY.
MOMMEEE, PLEEEASE BUY THEM FOR ME!
WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER, HONEY.
HOW DID YOU GET SO DIRTY, HONEY? YOU LOOK MONSTROUS!
YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT KIDS LOOKING MONSTROUS, LADY?
I... I BEG YOUR PARDON?
...
NOTHING. FORGET IT.

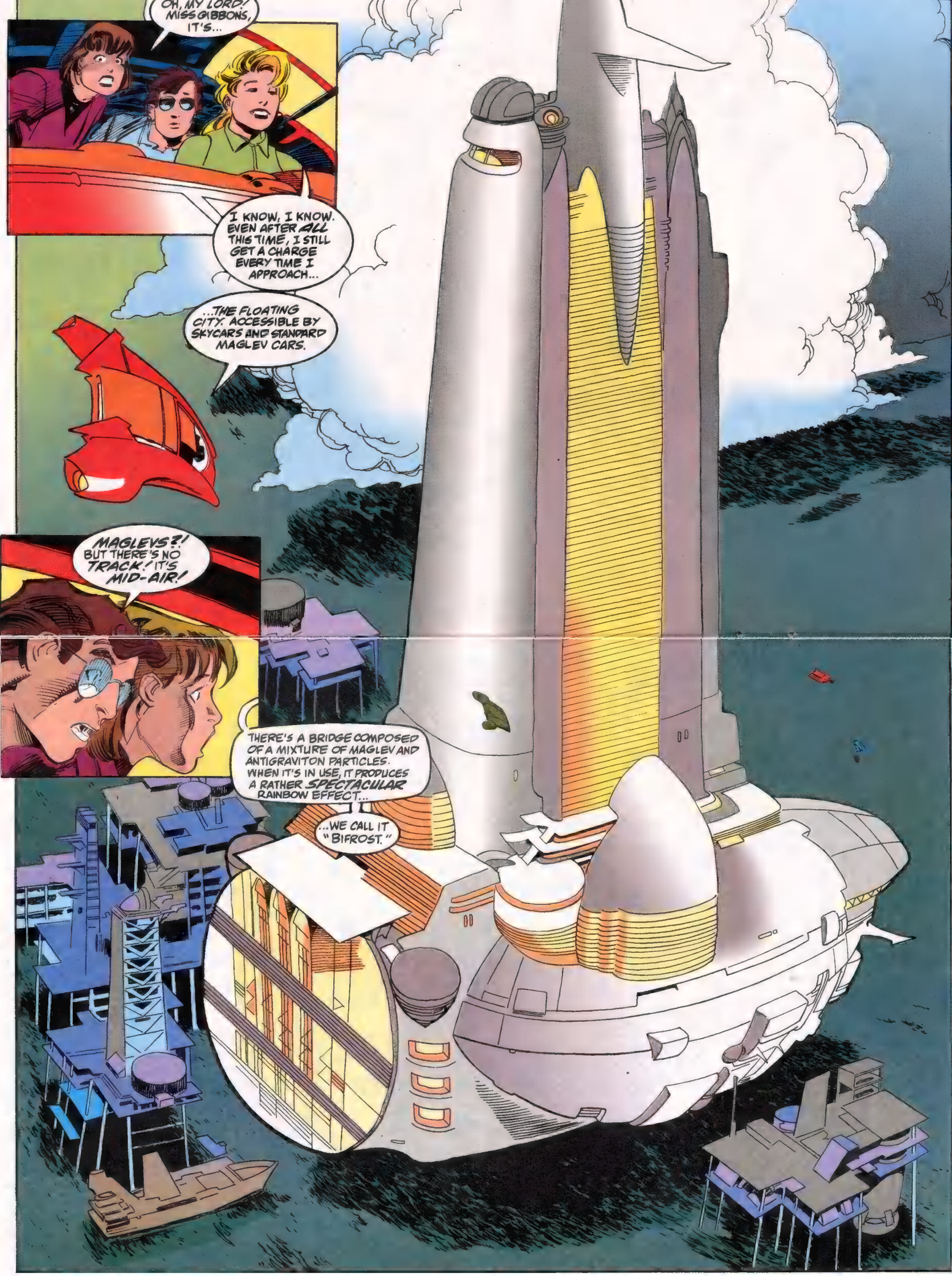
KASEY, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! STOP JUMPING AROUND! THE DOCTOR TOLD YOU TO TAKE IT SLOW!
HOW CAN I TAKE IT SLOW, RAFF? SPIDER-MAN IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE!
HE'S GIVING US THE MUSCLE WE NEED TO ROCK DOWN-TOWN! HE...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST MARRY THE GUY THEN?! JUST GO OFF WITH HIM ALREADY?!
DITCH ME! GO AHEAD!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL BE THE FIRST TIME!
GEEZ. WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

LYLA, DID MIGUEL GIVE ANY INDICATION AS TO WHEN HE'D BE BACK?
DANA... I MUST ADMIT, I'VE GROWN FOND OF YOU SINCE GETTING TO KNOW YOU.
NO, DANA.
YOU'RE A NICE GIRL, AND I HATE TO SEE YOU HURT.
TYLER, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MIKE... MIGHT NOT BE COMING BACK.
WHAT?
THAT WHOLE INSANE BUSINESS WITH THANATOS... THE MISHAP AT ALCHEMAX... IT...
TYLER, ARE YOU SAYING MIGUEL WAS SCARED OFF, SOMEHOW?
THAT HE QUIT THE COMPANY?
WELL...
DANA... MIGUEL IS... THAT IS, HE WAS...
WAS?!
DANA, THERE YOU ARE! THE SYNTHIA FOLKS SAID YOU'D BE H--


MIGUEL! OH, HONEY... ARE YOU OKAY?!
YEAH, SURE. BUT ARE YOU OKAY? THAT THANATOS GUY..
WE'RE FINE. EVERY-THING'S FINE.
TY, WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?
UH... NOTHING.
I WAS GETTING SO WORRIED. I KEPT CALLING YOUR APART-MENT...
YOU WERE?
LYLA, I ASKED YOU IF DANA CALLED. YOU SAID SHE DIDN'T. SHE SAYS SHE DID.
PERHAPS SHE'S LYING, MIGUEL.
THAT'S HARDLY LIKELY.
IT'S POSSIBLE I HAVE A BAD SECTOR. I WILL RUN A FULL DIAGNOSTIC.
WELL, MIKE... YOUR, UH, TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER.
REMEMBER THE FLOAT-ING CITY TRIP? WELL, A CRAFT IS READY TO WING YOU OFF EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
NOW?!
YES, AS WE DISCUSSED.
OH, MIGUEL, WON'T IT BE NICE TO HAVE SOME TIME TO OURSELVES...
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME OUT OF HERE SO THAT BOONE CAN MUCK WITH MY RESEARCH SOME MORE?
JORDAN BOONE IS NO LONGER WITH US.
HE'S... NOT?
BETTER HURRY. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE START-UP CEREMONY...

THE WELLVALE HOME...
AND HOW ARE YOU THIS FINE DAY, MRS. O'HARA?
CARE FOR A CUPPA?
Keep your voice down, Tux. You make such a show of being casual, they can hear you halfway to Nueva York.
What's the word on the net?
The Prophet of Thor has come. And now the Harbinger... Spider-Man...
...is all over Downtown, fighting for the little people. Making things right.
Downtown. Haven't thought of that place...
... since I sold my soul to get out of it.
Sold your soul...?
I did wicked things, Tux. I've tried to repent, but never succeeded.
But now Spider-Man is showing the way. This whole "Thor returns" thing... I'm not sure how much I buy into that.
But if being Downtown is good enough for Spider-Man, it should be good enough for me.


OH, MY LORD! MISS GIBBONS, IT'S...
I KNOW, I KNOW. EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL GET A CHARGE EVERY TIME I APPROACH...
...THE FLOATING CITY. ACCESSIBLE BY SKYCARS AND STANDARD MAGLEV CARS.
MAGLEVS?! BUT THERE'S NO TRACK! IT'S MID-AIR!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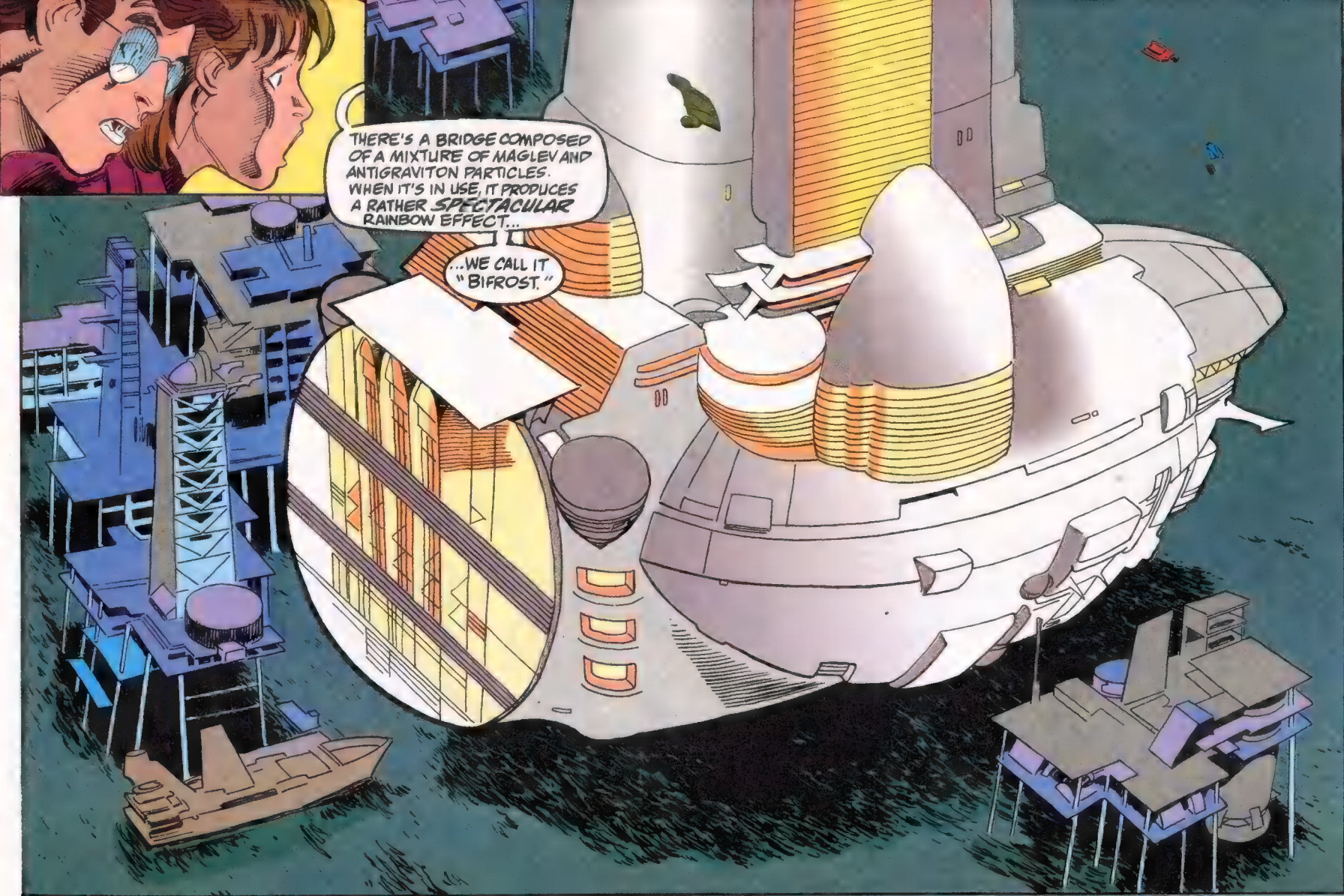
...THE FLOATING CITY. ACCESSIBLE BY SKYCARS AND STANDARD MAGLEV CARS.
MAGLEVS?! BUT THERE'S NO TRACK! IT'S MID-AIR!
THERE'S A BRIDGE COMPOSED OF A MIXTURE OF MAGLEV AND ANTIGRAVITON PARTICLES. WHEN IT'S IN USE, IT PRODUCES A RATHER SPECTACULAR RAINBOW EFFECT...
...WE CALL IT "BIFROST."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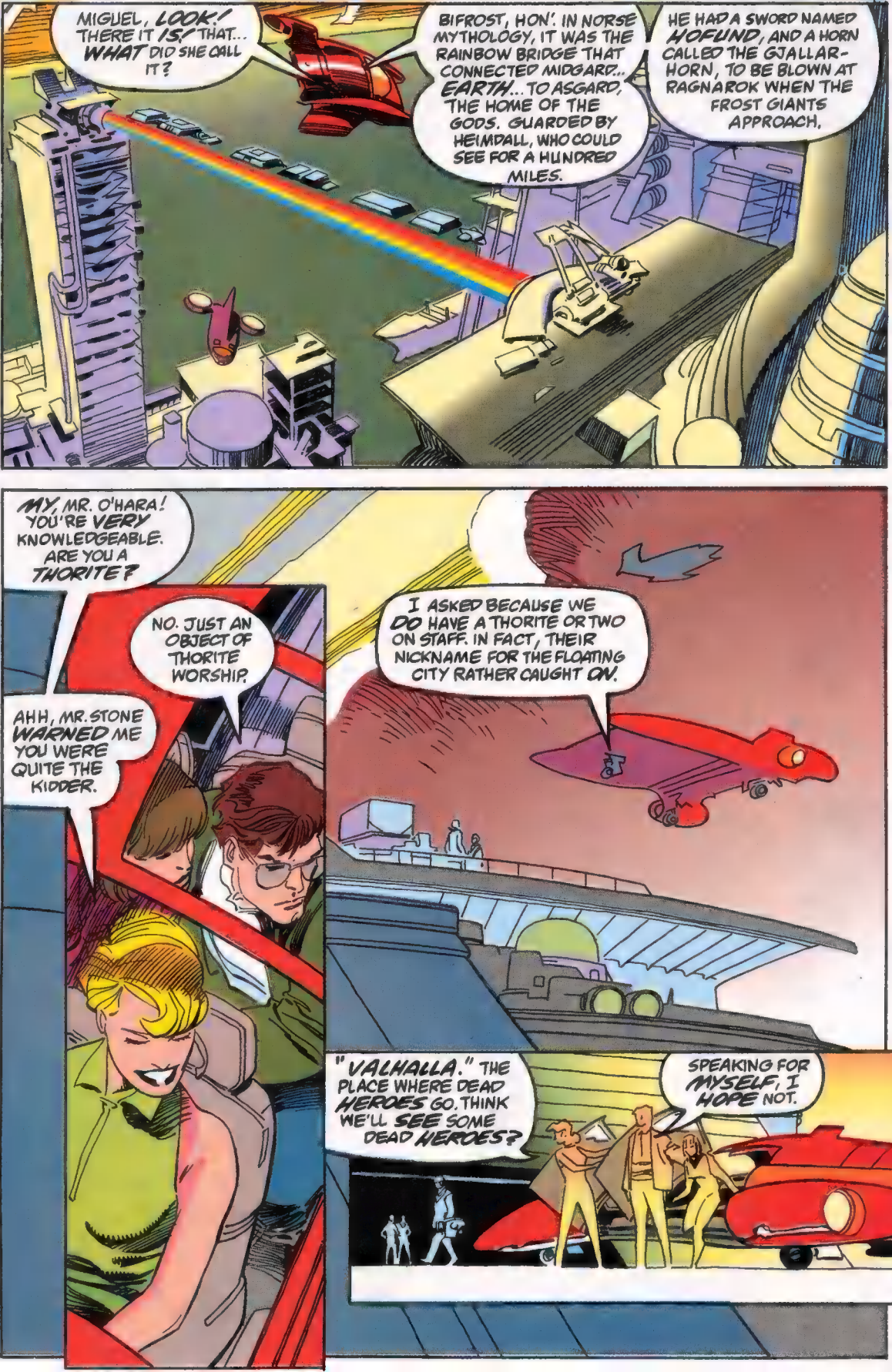

MIGUEL, LOOK! THERE IT IS! THAT... WHAT DID SHE CALL IT?
BIFROST, HON'. IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, IT WAS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE THAT CONNECTED MIDGARD... EARTH... TO ASGARD, THE HOME OF THE GODS. GUARDED BY HEIMDALL, WHO COULD SEE FOR A HUNDRED MILES.
HE HAD A SWORD NAMED HOFUND, AND A HORN CALLED THE GJALLAR-HORN, TO BE BLOWN AT RAGNAROK WHEN THE FROST GIANTS APPROACH.
MY, MR. O'HARA! YOU'RE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE. ARE YOU A THORITE?
NO. JUST AN OBJECT OF THORITE WORSHIP.
I ASKED BECAUSE WE DO HAVE A THORITE OR TWO ON STAFF. IN FACT, THEIR NICKNAME FOR THE FLOATING CITY RATHER CAUGHT ON.
AHH, MR. STONE WARNED ME YOU WERE QUITE THE KIDDER.
"VALHALLA." THE PLACE WHERE DEAD HEROES GO. THINK WE'LL SEE SOME DEAD HEROES?
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I HOPE NOT.

WHAT'S EVERYONE STANDING AROUND AND STARING AT?
WE'RE ABOUT TO BRING THE MAIN SYSTEMS ON-LINE, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.
WE'VE BEEN RUNNING INDIVIDUAL TESTS ON EVERYTHING, BUT WE HAVEN'T DONE A UNIFORM ACTIVATION...
BECAUSE YOU WERE CONCERNED THE DRAIN MIGHT OVERLOAD THE POWER GRID.
CITY IN THE SKY
EXACTLY RIGHT, MR. O'HARA.
THIS IS THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR: WHEN VALHALLA BECOMES TOTALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT.
AFTER THE START-UP, I'LL BRING YOU OVER TO THE HYDRO-PONICS LAB, SO YOU CAN SEE WHAT OUR CO-VENTURE WITH SYNTHIA HAS BROUGHT AB... OH! THE COUNTDOWN'S STARTING!

5
4
3
2
1
HEY! THERE'S A GUY UP THERE!
WHAT?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE SHOUTING!
YEAHHH!
HURRAH!
YAAY!
I SAID THERE'S A GUY UP TH--!
I DON'T SEE HIM NOW!
SEE WHO?!
MIGUEL?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!!
DANA! HOLD ON!
TO WHAT?!

SKREEE
BOOOOM
IT'S MOVING! THE CITY'S MOVING!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO A SKYCAR!
DANA, THERE'S ABOUT A MILLION PEOPLE HERE WITH THE SAME IDEA...
MORTALS!
BE NOT AFRAID!
THIS IS A TIME TO REJOICE!

THIS IS THE TIME THE PROPHECIES HAVE SPOKEN OF!
KNOW YOU, NOW AND FOREVER, THAT I AM THOR, RULER OF THE TEMPESTUOUS STORM, GOD OF THE ROLLING THUNDER!
AND I HAVE RETURNED WITH ALL THE POWER AND GLORY THAT ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

THIS IS THE TIME THE PROPHECIES HAVE SPOKEN OF!

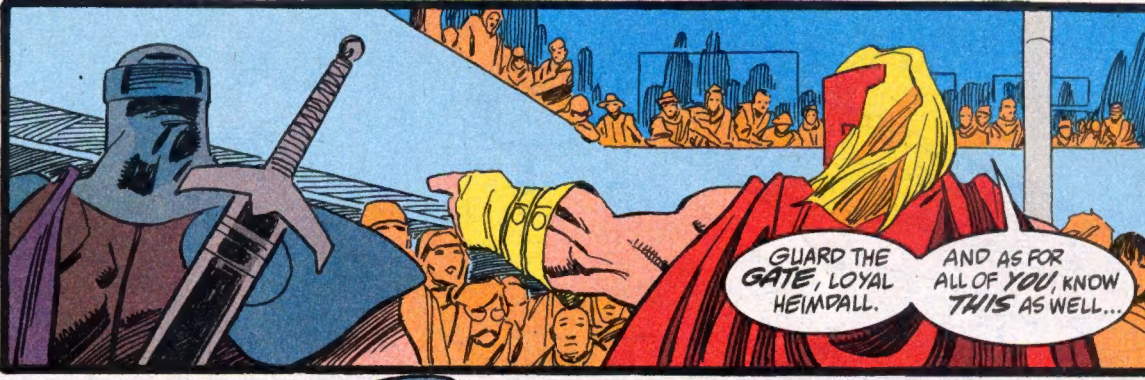
KNOW YOU, NOW AND FOREVER, THAT I AM THOR, RULER OF THE TEMPESTUOUS STORM, GOD OF THE ROLLING THUNDER!

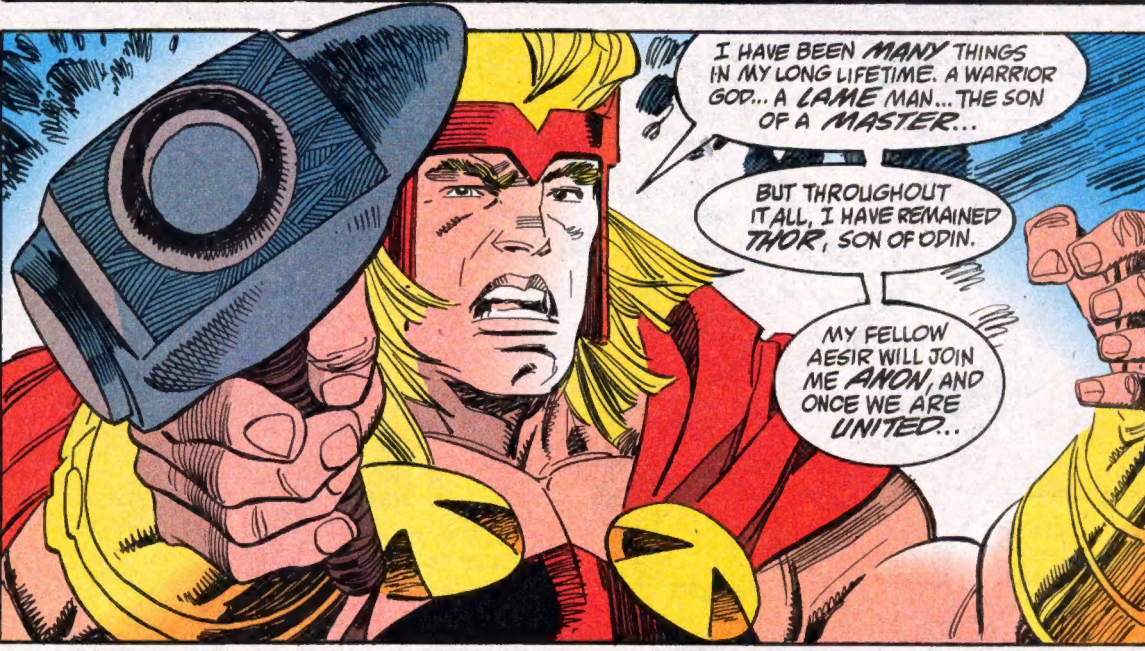
AND I HAVE RETURNED WITH ALL THE POWER AND GLORY THAT ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

IS THAT NOT RIGHT, FAITHFUL HEIMDALL?

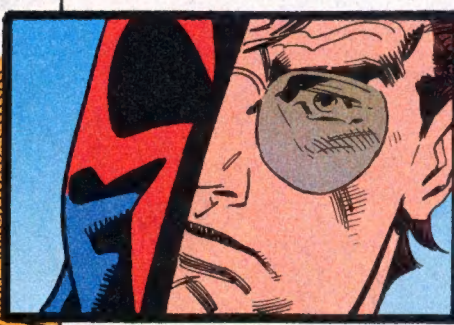
YOUR WORDS ARE LAW TO GODS AND MORTALS BOTH, ODINSON.

IS THAT NOT RIGHT, FAITHFUL HEIMDALL?
YOUR WORDS ARE LAW TO GODS AND MORTALS BOTH, ODINSON.




I HAVE BEEN MANY THINGS IN MY LONG LIFETIME. A WARRIOR GOD... A LAME MAN... THE SON OF A MASTER...
BUT THROUGHOUT IT ALL, I HAVE REMAINED THOR, SON OF ODIN.
MY FELLOW AESIR WILL JOIN ME ANON, AND ONCE WE ARE UNITED...

WE SHALL BRING THIS WORLD INTO THE GOLDEN AGE IT TRULY DESERVES.
AND WOE BE THOSE WHO ARE THE FALSE BRINGERS OF THE WORD OF THOR...
...FOR THEY SHALL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!!



Next:
NEXT MONTH, THE WAIT IS OVER!
The Fall of the HAMMER!

ARACHNOPHILIA

JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR

MATTHEW MORRA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

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Out Of My Head

THINGS TO DO TODAY

1) Hide subliminal message, "Marvel is cool," on all the connecting "Fall of the Hammer" crossover covers.
2) Write commentary for 2099 SKETCHBOOK, the special behind-the-scenes book we're doing, that's strictly a coupon mail-in deal.
3) Get gossip about the UK convention from Tony Skinner.
4) Take flak from office jokers who tell me we killed the wrong X-Man.
5) Kill office jokers.
6) Work with writers to come up with a lot of original 2099 characters for UNLIMITED.
7) Write long, meandering "Out of My Head" with comments like "In that song, 'Moon River,' what exactly is a 'huckleberry friend,' and do they come in any other flavors?"

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

WHAT DID YOU DO TO LYLA?

(Name and address withheld by request)

You ain't seen nothin' yet.

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #12 was cool! You all did a great job on Thanatos. I like the new villains you're creating for Spider-Man 2099, but are you going to bring back any of his "old" enemies like Vulture 2099? By the way, did he survive the fall in issue #8?

Brian Canham
3414 Plantation Rd.
Austin, TX 78745

Peter's not saying, Brian.

Dear Joey,

I love this title. I collect from seven to ten books a month and SPIDER-MAN 2099 is still my favorite. I have some questions about issue #12.

1) On page fourteen, Dana asked Tyler Stone if he knew who Spider-Man was. If he does know, why hasn't he threatened Miguel to do his dirty work or he'll send the Public Eye after him?

2) What happened to Lyla? She shed a tear (which I thought she was incapable of) and then she disappeared. Did she short-circuit or something?

3) Does this Net Prophet guy have anything to do with "The Prophet$," the team from X-FORCE that Sunspot once belonged to?

4) What happened to the alien races of the present day Marvel universe? Do humans just not want them here or are they afraid to come back after whatever happened to everyone at the end of the Heroic Age?

Rich Monahan
2 Vassar Ct.
Jackson, NJ 08527

1, 2) We know but we won't say. 3) Bad guess, try again, Rich. 4) Is there a third possibility you didn't think of?

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

Greetings from Chicken, Alaska! That's right, Mr. O'Hara has devotees even here in the far north (something even Motel 8 can't say)!

I first saw the new web-slinger in action while going to school at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. It was issue #3 that brought me into the 2099 Marvelverse. I had never before collected comics. The only ones I'd been interested in before were the original Punisher comics. After the first year of Punisher stories, I wrote off comics entirely. I liked the Spidey comics but there were too many of them to follow.

Miguel turned it all around. Or, to be more precise, Peter David turned it all around. His writing is incredible. But it was the artwork that first caught my eye. Wonderful!

I ended up working this summer here in Chicken, bringing Miguel and his adventures with me (I still only had issue #3 with me). When some other employees headed for Fairbanks, a short 300 mile commute, I asked them to get the rest of the series for me. I shared and currently have the other employees hooked waiting for the next Fairbanks trip.

The only complaints are as follows:

1) I didn't like issue #9.

2) You keep killing off the villains. (Vulture 2099 we didn't mind, but Venture and the Specialist were really well liked.)

3) I haven't been able to get my hands on issue #2.

Everything else has been great! I don't think I can thank you enough!

Paul Marks
Chicken, AL 99732

And Joey thought that his walking eight blocks in the snow in Jackson Heights to get the new Marvels was a show of dedication! You got him beat, Paul! We don't think we can thank you enough...except maybe to create a villain who sticks around a while longer!

Dear Arachnophiliacs,

I'm sick and tired of all these people talking about genetics and how Miguel's state is impossible. Isn't the whole idea of comics to do the impossible?

Also, I love this book.

Ed DeGuzman
494 Managua Way
Mary Esther, FL 32569

But, Ed, we get a kick out of speculating, especially since saying "Hey, what if..." is a great springboard to new stories!

Dear Interlacers of the Ensnaring Web,

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #12 was exceptionally well done. The story was enthralling as was the art. Thanatos is a terrific villain. I'm sure the Net Prophet will be too. I loved everything about this issue, especially the stellar poster within, and at no extra charge too! What an issue! You spiders continue to dazzle me.

SPIDER-MAN 2099 is the best of the 2099 line in my book. I have every issue. You can count on me to continue on for the ride.

Antonio Martinez
6041 S. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Joey says thanks for noticing that we kept the dinero down. But hey, Antonio, how else can we make sure you guys are all here every month?

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

RAVAGE 2099 #14 *There's more to our hero than meets the Eye; the Public Eye, that is! Ravage battles their #1 cop...Jake Gallows!*

DOOM 2099 #12 *The Wakanda Trilogy's grand finale! Doom vs. Thandaza!*

THE PUNISHER 2099 #11 *Hey! HEY! Does anybody read these blurbs? They take forever to write! Hello? Hello??*

X-MEN 2099 #3 *Junkpile kills one of the all-new X-Men...and we promise, this person will stay dead.*

NEXT ISSUE

What takes four writers, ten artists, a bottle of aspirin, and a huge wall chart in our office to produce? It's "The Fall of the Hammer," commencing next month! Be here, would you? We like to think we're doing all this for a reason!